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[Final 3-30-17 EPA Presentation to Congressional Estuary Caucus.ppt](#)

Hello Regional colleagues. The Federal Panel discussion for the Congressional Estuary Caucus was a great success. The panelists were introduced to Rep. Posey who gave opening remarks. There was a full room of attendees, primarily staffers, and a few federal staff from FWS, NOAA and EPA [Marcus Zobrist, Surabhi Shah, Denis Borum (OCIR)]. Rich Innes and Stan Hales (who elaborated on Barnegat Bay's work in partnership with the Jacques Cousteau NERR) were also in attendance.

Two questions were directed to EPA. One from Rep. Heck's staff regarding the importance of federal funding in bringing others to the table to address estuary challenges and another from Rep. Posey's staff on how our federal grantees learn from one another as they address similar challenges (also directed to NERRS). After the panel discussion ended the room was a buzz about the importance of our work and how it needs to continue. A few staffers came up to me and expressed appreciation. Attached is EPA's final presentation.

There will be a reception on May 3rd to celebrate the establishment of the Congressional Estuary Caucus (all are invited—awaiting details). There will also be a closed session – panel of NEP Directors who will speak before the Congressional Estuary Caucus on May 4th.

Thanks so much for your dedication and that of your staff in making the NEP a successful program. Have a great day and weekend!

Bernice

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